

TRIBUTE TO THE BUDDHIST
CHURCH OF SACRAMENTO

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 1, 1999

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to the Buddhist Church of Sacramento. On October 16, 1999, this church will be celebrating its 100th year anniversary. As the church members gather to celebrate, I ask all my colleagues to join with me in saluting this monumental achievement.

The Buddhist Church of Sacramento was established on December 17, 1899. The first meeting was held that day at 1221 Third Street, and the next year, a temple building was purchased at 418 O Street. Today, this small gathering of people has grown to over 1,200 families from throughout Sacramento, Yolo, and Solano counties.

In the past, this church has not been without its share of tragedy. On April 15, 1923, an arson fire destroyed the dormitory housing for children of working parents. Ten children perished in that fire. Additionally, after the outbreak of World War II and the issuance of Executive order 9066, Japanese-Americans from Sacramento were relocated to internment camps throughout the United States. During that time, the U.S. government assumed responsibilities for the church and used it as a military induction center.

However, the members of the Buddhist Church of Sacramento have persevered. Two years after the infamous arson fire, the church members constructed a new temple. A social hall was constructed in 1937 to provide additional recreational and social facilities for the Japanese-American community. As a result of the Sacramento Redevelopment Project, a new temple complex was constructed. It was dedicated on June 27–28, 1959.

Today, the church has grown to host several youth programs and events. For instance, over 200 community youths participate as members of Boy Scout Troop 50, Cub Scout Pack 50, and Girl Scout Troop 569. The church also sponsors various youth sports programs including basketball, volleyball, and golf.

Community programs at the Buddhist Church of Sacramento are not limited to youth activities. The church hosts the Tanoshimi-kai, a weekly lunch program attended by 150 seniors. The church's facilities are open to various Bonsai and other Japanese cultural groups for meetings and gatherings. In addition, the church conducts Japanese language classes, which are attended by over 100 students of all ages.

One crowning achievement of the Buddhist Church of Sacramento is its involvement in the Triple R Day Care Program. The program, sponsored by the city of Sacramento since Spring, 1999, chose the church as its first satellite site, the first Asian program, and the first site hosted by a church. Currently, there are nine program participants.

As a theme for this year's Centennial Celebration, the Buddhist Church has chosen: "Gratitude, Dedication, Aspiration." This theme symbolizes the relationships of the past, present, and future at the church. It represents a time to reflect on the past, a time to celebrate the present, and a time to plan for the future.

Mr. Speaker, as the exceptional people of the Buddhist Church of Sacramento gather to celebrate their church's centennial anniversary, I am honored to pay tribute to one of Sacramento's most outstanding organizations. The Buddhist Church of Sacramento's contributions to the youth and overall community are commendable. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing the church continued success in all its future endeavors.

IN MEMORY OF DR. DAVID N.
JONES

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 1, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Dr. David N. Jones, a former professor of Russian and Soviet History at California State University, Fresno (CSUF). David was also actively involved in the Fresno County Republican Central Committee.

Dr. Jones is a native of West Virginia, grew up in North Carolina and was educated at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He joined the faculty at CSUF in 1970, after teaching at the University of California, Santa Barbara and Duke University. He was a demanding but sought-after teacher. The University and the community will sorely miss his erudition. He served the History Department in many capacities, most notably as Chair and as Graduate Advisor. He was an avid violinist and performed for many years with the Fresno state orchestra. He also enjoyed amateur theatricals and performed in many local productions. Many will remember him as Lesgate in "Dial M. for Murder" or Mr. Radley in "To Kill a Mocking Bird." At the time of his death he was preparing to try out for the role of the fiddler in "Fiddler on the Roof" with the Roger Rockas Music Hall.

David Jones was active in Republican Party Affairs from 1996–1998 as an elected member of the Fresno County Republican Central Committee.

David is remembered by his wife, Laura; his stepchildren, Amber, Christopher, and Justin Weatherby of Fresno; his brother, Joseph Jones of Chapel Hill, NC; his sister, Karin Jones of Denver, CO, and numerous nephews, nieces, and cousins.

Mr. Speaker, in remembrance of David N. Jones, I would like to acknowledge the happiness he brought to others and the respect so many held for him. I urge my colleagues to join with me in extending my condolences to the Jones family.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 1, 1999

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent Friday, September 24, 1999, and Monday, September 27, 1999, and as a result, missed rollcall votes 444 through 452. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 444, "yes" on rollcall vote 445,

"no" on rollcall vote 446, "yes" on rollcall vote 447, "yes" on rollcall vote 448, "yes" on rollcall vote 449, "yes" on rollcall vote 450, "yes" on rollcall vote 451, and "yes" on rollcall vote 452.

REGARDING THE RETIREMENT OF
JOE REORDA

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 1, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, today, because Republicans in the House of Representatives are working to ensure 100% of the Social Security Trust Fund is devoted to preserving Social Security instead of being used to pay for new big government spending, a friend and constituent came to my mind, Mr. Joe Reorda, Principal of Trinidad Catholic Schools, in Trinidad, Colorado.

Mr. Reorda, who plans to retire in 2000, served as a school principal for 31 years in Trinidad's public school system and for the last eight years, as principal of Trinidad Catholic Schools. During his tenure in the public schools, he contributed to Colorado's public retirement plan which provides solid, secure benefits at a reasonable cost. Unfortunately, when he went to work for the private school, he had no choice but to make payments to the Social Security system.

Upon retirement from Trinidad Catholic Schools, he will start receiving his pension from the state of Colorado but his benefit from Social Security will be greatly reduced because of the Windfall Elimination Provision. Mr. Reorda knows this is not fair. First of all, he was required to invest in the government's program instead of being able to choose his own individual retirement plan. An Individual Retirement Account, for example, would earn for him more than what the government can. In fact, all Americans could be earning a higher rate of return on retirement funds if they were allowed to invest in individually directed and professionally managed accounts.

Secondly, and more importantly, after a lifetime of hard work and paying taxes, Mr. Reorda should be able to trust he will receive full benefits when he retires. He made the required payments to the system in good faith so he should be able to expect the full measure of his Social Security benefits to be waiting for him when he retires.

This is a very challenging time for Members of Congress. For 32 years, Congress raided the Social Security Trust Fund to pay for Washington programs that had nothing to do with Social Security. It is time to put an end to this practice. It is time my colleagues on both sides of the aisle pledge not to pass any legislation that spends one penny of the Social Security Trust Fund.

Mr. Speaker, it is for this reason I rise today to tell you about my friend, Mr. Reorda. I would like to soon be able to report to him the funds he's been sending to Washington are secure and will be returned to him in full.